

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to oppose the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will decrease video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a monopolistic entity by being able to set pricing and freeze out subscribers it doesn't wish to serve. DirectTV already narrowed the field by swallowing USSB, and would be able to dangerously dominate the field with no competition. As the market stands now, the best situation is competition between satellite providers, as exists now between DirectTV and EchoStar.

As a product reviewer and reporter since the beginning of the satellite era, I feel allowing this merger would be a terrible mistake with bad consequences for consumers in rural and urban areas.

Hughes' satellite service misrepresents its speeds, and in my professional opinion, is not a viable alternative to hardwired broadband access. Furthermore, it's poor customer support and hardware implementation has driven many customers back to dialup service.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Michael McGann
1548 Washington Lane
West Chester, PA 19382